



BALTIMORE COUNTY 2002 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Baltimore County located in central Maryland, borders Pennsylvania on the north and encircles Baltimore City on the south like a horseshoe. About 80 percent of the county is located within the piedmont plateau with gently rolling hills, while the remaining 20 percent is in the coastal plain region with flat sandy soils. With almost 390,000 acres in land area, it is the third largest county in the state, and the third most populated county with 754,292 people in 2000.

The 1997 census of agriculture indicates the county has 781 farms with 75,795 acres devoted to agricultural use. The average value of land and building per farm is \$456,780 with land values of \$4,742 per acre.

Baltimore County has a very diverse agriculture. The major commodities include dairy, livestock, corn, soybeans, small grains, forages, fruits and vegetables. The county ranks fourth in the state in vegetable acres harvested. Numerous farmer's markets have now opened where this produce can be sold. Within the beautiful valleys of the county are located many thoroughbred horse farms. In 2002, Baltimore County had 10,630 equine, first among Maryland counties. One of the best known points of interest in Baltimore County is the Timonium Fair grounds, site of the Maryland State Fair.

BALTIMORE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Acreage Harvested</i>	<i>Average Yield</i>	<i>Total Production</i>
Corn for Grain	2000	Bu.	15,700	159.6	2,505,000
	2001		17,300	104.5	1,808,000
	2002		19,000	84.2	1,600,000
Corn for Silage	2000	Tons.	2,300	22.6	52,000
	2001		2,500	15.2	38,000
	2002		2,100	13.3	28,000
Soybeans	2000	Bu.	13,400	40.7	546,000
	2001		11,900	34.5	411,000
	2002		11,900	31.0	368,900
Wheat	2000	Bu.	2,900	63.6	184,300
	2001		2,600	59.6	155,000
	2002		2,900	55.9	162,000
Hay	2000	Tons.	10,000	4.0	39,500
	2001		9,000	2.7	24,000
	2002		8,500	2.2	18,300
Barley	2000	Bu.	1,400	85.0	119,000
	2001		1,300	69.5	90,300
	2002		1,100	81.8	90,000

<i>Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 2002</i>				<i>Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹</i>	
Corn	8	Oats	³	Cattle	7
Wheat	17	Barley	11	Hogs	11
Hay	8	Soybeans	13	Sheep	2
				Milk Cows	6 ⁵

BALTIMORE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Farm Number & Size</i> ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		917	840	781
Average Size	(acres)	101	99	97
Land in Farms	(acres)	92,806	83,232	75,795
<i>Livestock (Number on Farms)</i> ¹				
Cattle Inventory		14,631	12,401	9,642
Hog Inventory		3,935	4,645	2,480
Sheep Inventory		2,504	4,272	3,004
<i>Value of Sales</i> ¹			(\$1,000)	
All Products		39,750	40,611	51,179
Crops		19,725	26,311	34,963
Livestock, Poultry, and Poultry Products		20,025	14,300	16,216
Average Number of Milk Cows		2000	2001	2002
		2,700	2,500	2,500
Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.		61,000	58,000	59,000
<i>Equine, 2002</i>				
<i>Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Value of Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Number of Equine Places</i>		
	<i>1,000 dollars</i>			
10,630	121,800	2,100		
Cash Rents				
		2000	2001	2002
Cropland	<i>dollars per acre</i>	60.88	64.47	61.87

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Unranked - Data not published.

⁴ Revised.

⁵ 2002.

* Acreage too small to publish.

